

On July 24, I introduced H.R. 2864, the Reforming, Accelerating and Protecting Interstate Design Act, otherwise known as the RAPID Act. This bill would allow large transportation systems to be built in less time and to save transportation funds by allowing roads to be built in commonsense increments as they are needed.

CONGRATULATING THE ST. JOSEPH BALLET COMPANY

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to the St. Joseph Ballet Company from Santa Ana, California, which was honored last night for being one of 18 organizations across the United States and Mexico to receive the 2003 Coming Up Taller Award.

This award recognizes outstanding community arts and humanities programs for their work with the underserved youth and for providing them with learning opportunities and a way to serve our communities.

□ 1015

I am very proud that one of the recipients of this prestigious award comes from my district, because St. Joseph is more than just a dance program. They have been teaching children about dance, self-discipline, and the importance of academic excellence for over 20 years. They give children a sense of accomplishment. They help motivate them in all aspects of life, and they seek to provide children with an education that goes beyond the standard core curriculum. I am very pleased that because of their hard work they have been nationally recognized with this wonderful award.

SAVING ENERGY AND TAXPAYER MONEY

(Mr. MURPHY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, as the cold of winter approaches also comes homeowners' concern for rising heating costs. It is important that the Federal Government take some leads in helping to deal with the supply and demand issues.

The Federal Government is the largest single user of energy in the world, spending \$10 billion per year for its buildings. Despite past efforts, however, energy consumption is still too high, using old, inefficient technology. Only nine agencies since 1929 have reported energy savings in trying to save costs. The Alliance to Save Energy estimates at least 1 billion in taxpayer dollars is still being wasted. Some estimates are higher. For example, military bases can save millions in energy

costs by replacing old, failing boilers and heating systems with energy-efficient models.

The energy bill that will soon be taken up by the House will take an important step to increase energy efficiency by requiring a 20 percent energy consumption reduction in the next decade. This is a vital provision, one that will save mass amounts of taxpayer money, conserve energy, help save energy costs for our Nation.

Let us stop the waste and start conserving for our future.

WHAT IS THE PLAN TO GET OUT OF IRAQ?

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I came to the floor and told my colleagues about a young man from my district who was killed in Iraq and the conversation I had with his mother. Since then, two more Americans have died in Iraq. Yesterday, I asked Members to be silent and contemplate our lost men and women.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to ask the President for a plan for how we are going to get out of Iraq. Whatever threat Mr. Bush may have perceived from Saddam Hussein, whatever warehouses of weapons Mr. Bush believed were waiting to harm the United States, it is over now. We should plan to get out.

We should not spend the lives of young men and young women to privatize Iraq's economy. We should plan to get out. We should not spend the lives of young Americans to build sewers in Iraq. We should not spend the lives of young Americans to make Iraq into our vision of a model state. We should plan to leave. We are symbols. We are targets. We are sitting ducks. Send in the U.N. or some of the Arab states or NATO or whoever wants to go. Pay for it with American taxpayers' money as you sign it today, but stop paying for it with American lives. Plan, Mr. President, to get out.

HONORING AND THANKING THE VETERANS OF 7TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, we are coming up on Veterans' Day, and I rise today to honor and say thank you to the over 65,000 men and women who are veterans and constituents of Tennessee's Seventh Congressional District. I thank them one and all for their service, for their sacrifice, their valor and for their commitment to duty, which has been to stand vigilant, strong and to protect our freedom that we enjoy.

I also want to say thank you to our troops and to their families. Our Seventh Congressional District is home to many of the families from Fort Campbell, who are part of the 101st Airborne and the Special Operations Forces, and we are also home to many of the National Guardsmen and the Reservists and their families who are deployed and who are now defending freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq.

We appreciate their sacrifice. We thank them for the job that they are doing so very well.

LOOTING OF MUTUAL FUNDS

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, 95 million investors have deposited \$7 trillion in mutual funds, the largest deposit of retirement savings in this country. They have deposited that money there in hopes of a bright retirement, building a nest egg that can support their family and their standard of living when they cease to work. These are hardearned dollars of American workers in every industry at every level. They were told to invest for the long term, \$7 trillion.

Now every morning the American worker wakes up to a new headline, where the powerful, the insiders, the elite, the criminals are looting those mutual funds, are skimming profits off of those trust funds to the detriment of the average investor, the average worker.

Mr. Strong, who runs the Strong Mutual Funds, who is worth \$800 million, set up an account for his daughter, for his wife and for himself and secretly looted the savings of American workers. Mr. Strong should go to jail.

DYNACORP CONTRACT TO TRAIN POLICE IN IRAQ

(Mr. DUNCAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, liberals who gave us Big Government should love the DynCorp contract to train police in Iraq. Almost all Federal contracts are sweetheart deals that hire former high-level Federal employees or retired military officers, but this police training contract just about takes the cake.

NBC News reported the night before last that we have already spent \$30 million on this deal and will in short order be spending \$800 million more. We will be spending, according to NBC, \$400,000 per trainer, counting salaries, benefits and expenses. No policeman in this country makes anywhere near this much.

DynCorp was so embarrassed they refused to comment because they knew there was no way they could justify the obscene profits and ripoff of the U.S.

taxpayers in this sweetheart deal, \$850 million, \$400,000 per trainer. DynCorp should be ashamed, but I suppose they are laughing all the way to the bank.

PRESIDENT BUSH SIGNS PARTIAL BIRTH ABORTION BAN ACT

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I had the privilege of sitting just a few feet away as President George W. Bush signed the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003. In both deed and in word, President George W. Bush did much for the cause for life yesterday, ending a period of time in our history when a terrible form of violence directed against children inches from birth was allowed under the law.

But in addition to his signature, the President also expressed clear moral leadership, saying, "America stands for liberty . . . and the unalienable right of life." The President went on to say, "Every person, however frail or vulnerable, has a place and a purpose in this world" because "the right to life cannot be granted or denied by government, because it does not come from government." The President said, "It comes from the Creator of life."

The President not only lent his signature to an important legislative initiative, but in the very best example of American leadership, he provided a clear moral vision, leading us away from the nightmare of abortion in America.

Righteousness exalts a Nation and did so yesterday.

A VOTE FOR LIGHT RAIL

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is not often that we come to the floor to discuss a myriad of local official issues, but this one is worth announcing. The voters of Harris County and Houston and the metroplex have spoken in Houston, Texas. We have voted overwhelmingly to improve the quality of life, to enhance regional mobility and to say to the world that we do believe that the environment is premised on more and more of us being concerned about the idea of not polluting our air quality. We have voted for light rail.

For 30 years, it may sound humorous to some, but we have argued and debated this question in Houston, Texas, and through large opposition, moneyed opponents, misleading statements the people saw the truth and have voted to provide for light rail for their students, for their businesses, for their communities, for their tourism, and for the enhancement of economic development.

With that vote, we now come to this House to ask for our fair share, our fair

share of rail and transportation dollars, \$2.4 billion. Congratulations to the metro for voting for light rail and the people of Harris County.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The Chair would ask Members to heed the gavel.

BENEFITS FOR THE TOP ONE PERCENT

(Mr. RYAN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, the tax cut that went to the top 1 percent, we withstood that. The trade deals that send our jobs to Mexico, the loss of manufacturing jobs, we have talked about that. The vetoing or threatening of vetoing the Buy American legislation for the defense appropriations bill, we have thought that took the cake, but now the administration took out the antiprofitteering provision for the \$87 billion supplemental. Give me a break.

It is obvious now to the American people that this administration and this Congress is bought and paid for by the top 1 percent of the people in this country. They get all the money they want for the deals in Iraq. They get their tax breaks back. They donate it to the President and they get the legislation they want.

It is time for the American people to stand up and pay attention to what is going on and take the country back.

TAX CUTS WORK

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, do the tax breaks work? Well, not according to Howard Dean and Al Sharpton and Wesley Clark and all the other liberal left running for President. But a funny thing happened in the economy. Last month, the numbers came out. The gross domestic product increased 7.2 percent. The economic growth rate, one of the highest since 1984 when Ronald Reagan was President, right after he had cut taxes. The jobless claims have decreased. More people are working and there has been a surge in productivity.

Do tax cuts work? Well, the economy and the economic numbers that are just out say, yes, they do. People are working. Revenues are up. Why do they work? Because if a worker has more money in his pocket then he is going to go out and spend more. Small businesses will respond by increasing their inventory. When they do that and demand goes up, they hire more people. When more people are hired, more peo-

ple are paying taxes and fewer people are on welfare depending on government checks. Tax breaks work.

ELECTION OF AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN TO MUNICIPAL COURT

(Mrs. JONES of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on election day Tuesday in the city of Cleveland, Ohio, the voters of the city of Cleveland elected four smart, intelligent, good-looking African American women to the municipal court: Emanuella Groves, reelected; Lauren Moore, elected for the first time; Anita Lassiter May, elected for the first time; and Pauline Tarver, elected for the first time.

We are so excited about the opportunity for these young women to serve and provide justice to the people of the city of Cleveland. I join with the voters of the city of Cleveland in congratulating these fine young women who will serve well as Cleveland municipal court judges.

□ 1030

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 1904, HEALTHY FORESTS RESTORATION ACT OF 2003

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1 of rule XXII, and by direction of the Committee on Agriculture, I move to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 1904) to improve the capacity of the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to plan and conduct hazardous fuels reduction projects on the National Forest System lands and Bureau of Land Management lands aimed at protecting communities, watersheds, and certain other at-risk lands from catastrophic wildfire, to enhance efforts to protect watersheds and address threats to forest and rangeland health, including catastrophic wildfire, across the landscape, and for other purposes, with Senate amendments thereto, disagree to the Senate amendments, and request a conference with the Senate thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) is recognized for 1 hour on his motion.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the Nation is well aware of the problem we have with our national forests. The wildfires in California for the past 2 weeks have made it all too painfully clear that we need to take measures to protect our forests. The legislation that is before the House, H.R. 1904, that the House passed with strong bipartisan support, accomplishes that goal. The Senate has also passed legislation to address this matter. There are substantial differences